



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices were trending lower in the East; unchanged elsewhere. Trade sentiment was steady to barely steady in the East, steady in the Midwest and fully steady in the West. Retail demand was light to fair with few features, and food service was light to moderate, best for fast food. Supplies were more than sufficient for trade needs with heavier sizes in the East at least adequate. In the parts structure, trading was light to moderate. Breast items and tenders were balanced to close and well cleared. Wings ranged about adequate to fully adequate. Supplies of leg items were available as interest tapered and export issues remained uncertain and cautious. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were desirable to heavy, but mostly desirable.

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 03/01/04-03/05/04 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A

(Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	69.00-72.00	67.75-81.00	71.70	27
Los Angeles	77.00			
New York	75.00-77.00			
Southeast Area	FOB Dock Equivalent			
Mississippi	71.00-73.00	70.00-76.00	72.23	81

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 72.25 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
873	66.00-75.50	72.18

Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:

ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	220.50	1,243
BREASTS - B/S	194.50	5,487
BREASTS - WHOLE	100.50	1,777
THIGH MEAT - B/S	124.50	1,015
LEG QUARTERS	39.50	7,683
WINGS	122.00	2,969

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone on whole broiler/fryers continues steady. Preliminary majority prices were unchanged in Chicago. Offerings were light for a like trade interest. Retail and food service demand was light to moderate with fast food moderate to instances good. Floor stocks were in balance to occasionally long. Weights mostly desirable. Parts trade was slow with buyers very cautious as markets adjust. Supplies of leg quarters were building slightly, boneless skinless breasts varied tight to adequate for needs, wings well cleared and tenderloins tight. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady on tenderloins, steady on wings, unsettled on breast cuts and cautiously steady to weak on dark meat items.

SOUTHERN BROILER Trade sentiment was generally steady. Demand entering the weekend was light to moderate with mixed trading. Supplies were usually sufficient to handle trade needs with wogs in the better balance. In the parts structure, trading was fair. Breast items were in close balance and well cleared. Wings were sufficient to available. Dark meat items were available due in part to ongoing export developments. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed but mostly desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The preliminary majority prices were unchanged from last week. The market tone was fully steady overall with trading reported for next week at unchanged to higher prices. Offerings remained adequate to cover immediate needs.

Buying activity was moderate. Retailer demand was moderate to fairly good best to cover features in progress. Dealers anticipated satisfactory weekend clearances. The market tone was steady to firm on parts with boneless breast in the strongest position.

Ads noted (per pound unless otherwise stated):

Arizona – roaster 99-159, boneless breast 349, boneless breast 4# bagged IQF 752, boneless breast tenders 399, split breast 189-249, wing 89, leg quarter 79-99, thigh 88-129, drumstick 88-129;

Colorado – roaster 99, boneless breast marinated or seasoned organic 500, boneless breast 3# bagged IQF 700, boneless thigh meat 200, split breast 199-229, leg quarter 79, drumstick 100, thigh 100;

Idaho – whole body 59, boneless breast 4# bagged IQF 999-1199, boneless breast tenders 4# bagged 999-1199, marinated boneless breast 349-499, split breast 88-239, thigh 79-139, drumstick 79-139, wing 79-139,

(deli food service – fried 8 piece mixed 499);

Northern California – boneless thigh meat 299, split breast 229;

Southern California – whole body 59-67, whole body free range 169, whole cut-up 119, roaster 119, boneless breast 197-399, boneless breast 3# bagged IQF 599, boneless leg meat 168, split breast 99-239, leg quarter 88, leg quarter 10# bag 490-590, thigh 89-129, thigh marinated 87, thigh 4# bagged IQF 350, drumstick 89-129, drumstick marinated 87, drumstick 4# bagged IQF 350;

(deli food service - fried 8 piece drumstick and thigh 378, 8 piece mixed 599, whole rotisserie chicken each 498-499).

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was fair to no better than moderate entering the weekend. Offerings of the 3 pound and lighter birds were balanced. The 3.5 to 4 pound sizes were adequate to available. Movement through retail and distributive channels was slow. The market tone was barely steady on the 3.5 pound and larger birds, mostly steady on the balance. In the parts complex, breast items and tenders remained closely cleared and commanding premiums. Legs, leg quarters and drumsticks were increasingly available. Wings were generally sufficient.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was light to fair at best. Seller offerings were fully sufficient for current inquiry. Live supplies were moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate to light. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 76 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was about steady. In the parts complex, breast items were well balanced to short of immediate needs. Thighs remained in generally good balance. Legs, leg quarters and particularly drums were available and slow in clearing. Wings were fully adequate, instances well cleared.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA. **BRANDED U.S. GRADE A**

RANGE	72-91
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	80.01
NO. OF BOXES	5,396
CUMULATIVE	02/23/04-02/27/04 80.46
	02/24/03-02/28/03 59.57
NO. OF BOXES	02/23/04-02/27/04 30,626
	02/24/03-02/28/03 42,827

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

FEB 26

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

FEB 27

ITEM	POUNDS				WTD AVG	POUNDS				WEEKLY	
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY			(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	920	182.00-260.00	184-187	190.69	882	184.00-260.00	185-189	193.48	4,457	187.53	
TENDERLOINS	231	198.00-245.00	198-202	204.63	183	200.00-239.00	200-204	207.19	1,085	202.64	
BREAST - LINE RUN	106	95.00-101.00	95-98	98.02	76	95.00-103.00	97-99	98.34	491	98.16	
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				322	103.25	
LEGS	103	54.00-58.00	54-56	55.86	114	54.00-57.00	54-56	55.64	526	55.79	
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	611	36.00-39.00	36-37	36.47	644	35.00-39.00	36-37	36.64	3,002	36.47	
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	900	38.00-43.00	39-40	39.91	1,100	38.00-43.00	38-40	39.49	5,007	39.71	
WINGS (WHOLE)	281	119.00-124.00	119-123	122.47	302	121.00-127.00	121-124	122.97	1,426	122.15	
WINGS (CUT)	520	132.00-142.00	134-136	136.37	379	132.00-142.00	134-137	136.51	2,244	136.37	
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				71	58.72	
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				141	54.39	
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				400	122.35	
*****					*****						
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS					WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS						
TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 26, 2004 F.O.B. DOCK.					TRADING FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2004 F.O.B. DOCK.						

RANGE**TODAY'S AVERAGE****RANGE****TODAY'S AVERAGE****5-DAY AVERAGE**

65.50 - 72.00

69.20

65.50 - 74.50

71.47

69.84

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS - Trucklot buying activity was noted as fair to moderate entering the weekend. Offerings of breast items and tenderloins were closely cleared and commanding premiums. Legs, leg quarters and drumsticks were at least adequate. Wings were sufficient. Retail and distributive movement was lackluster. The market tone was fully steady to instances firm on breast items and tenderloins, barely steady on legs, leg quarters and drumsticks; about steady on the balance.

ICE PACKED B/F PARTS, DLVRD TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER LB.

FEB 27

ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD	CURRENT NEG			WTD	WEEKLY
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS		TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS		
BREAST - B/S	185-190	185.68	483,440		190	190.31	532,884	185.09	2,854,604
TENDERLOINS	200	196.40	74,360		200-205	193.59	100,780	185.66	527,340
BREAST - WITH RIBS	97-98	103.50	110,360		98-99	104.31	131,640	102.89	735,600
BREAST - LINE RUN	97	99.98	90,360		98	99.83	113,680	98.60	527,880
LEGS	46-47	52.00	311,480		45-46	51.27	203,321	52.02	1,660,082
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	38-39	38.67	284,177		37-38	39.70	578,855	38.70	2,086,857
DRUMSTICKS	40-41	46.93	74,840		39-40	47.39	68,720	47.03	571,260
THIGHS	42-43	49.29	59,960		42-43	49.72	66,280	49.57	290,860
B/S THIGHS	116-117	117.99	54,280		116-117	120.48	38,840	116.75	324,710
WINGS (WHOLE)	114-115	124.27	119,280		114-115	125.20	117,240	122.93	655,110
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.13	29,120		10-12	12.06	31,240	11.99	156,400
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	32.29	14,080		35-40	34.10	16,280	34.71	69,645
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	68.73	22,016		60-65	68.74	34,600	68.97	120,148

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPE, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WT		ACTUAL		AVG WTS
	02/27	02/26	02/25	02/24	02/25	02/24	02/20	02/18	
ALA	3,685	3,747	3,757	3,859	5.27	5.27	3,767	5.16	
ARK	4,969	5,390	5,168	5,092	4.93	5.07	5,100	5.01	
DELMARVA	1,975	2,072	2,176	2,213	5.34	5.41	2,112	5.33	
KY-LA-TN	1,947	1,947	2,039	1,845	5.07	4.87	1,877	5.05	
MISS	2,493	3,071	3,052	3,118	5.41	5.42	2,838	5.45	
NC	2,213	2,403	2,329	2,343	6.28	6.31	2,474	6.20	
TEXAS	2,270	2,240	2,191	2,073	5.07	5.21	1,980	5.06	
TOTAL	19,552	20,870	20,712	20,543	5.29	5.34	20,148	5.28	
MON-FRI	103,534(A)				101,814(A)				

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 27-Feb 04 and 28-Feb-04 is estimated to be 29,252 ,000 down 3.25 percent from a week ago and down 8.9 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,234,000; last year 32,109,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	93-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	95-105
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	71-77
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	104-106
DRY PACK	102-103
ICE PACK	
ROASTERS 4# & UP	105
DRY PACK	109
ICE PACK	93
HENS OVER 5#	93-95
DRY PACK	152-175
DUCKS	

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 28-Feb-04 is estimated to be 149,141,000 head down 2 percent from a week ago, and unchanged from a year ago

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 14-Feb-04 (Preliminary),

	(A) Fast food/ Food service	(B) Retail	(C) Deboning
	4.20 Lbs & down	4.21-5.25 Lbs	5.26 Lbs & Up
	-----THOUSANDS-----		

Head	28,938	20,603	44,512
Avg Weight	3.71	4.80	6.26
% of total /1	31%	22%	47%

COMPARISONS

Last week	26,379	27,539	42,299
Avg Weight	3.71	4.81	6.42
% of total /1	27%	29%	44%

Same week, yr ago /2	29,212	19,535	46,376
Avg Weight	3.85	4.81	6.17
% of total /1	31%	21%	49%

To date/2004	137,205	126,662	240,493
To date/2003	140,976	126,469	249,453

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding. /2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION W/E 21-Feb-04 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
	-----THOUSANDS-----				
HEAD	152,287	1,291	1,314	2,605	480
AVG WT	5.05	3.29	7.91	5.62	6.78
LAST WEEK	152,505	1,230	1,319	2,549	450
SAME WK YR AGO	147,355	1,534	1,450	2,984	466
AVG WT	5.04	3.33	8.03	5.18	6.51
TO-DATE/2004	1,073,294	9,125	8,979	18,104	3,170
TO-DATE/2003	1,050,730	11,918	9,737	21,655	2,974

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 157.7 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 154.1 million head or 3.6 million head less than or 98% of estimated fryers available.

GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION - FEB 24, 2004

PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	RANGE		RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	.90 - 1.00	Leghorn Hens	.20 - .25
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.85 - .95	Silkie	1.50 - 2.00
Pekin Ducks	2.25 - 2.50ea.	Pigeons	3.50 - 4.00ea.
Red Fowl 4-5 LBS	.60 - .80	White Pigeons	5.00 - 6.25ea.
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.75 - 1.00	Rabbits	
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.80 - 1.10	4-6 LBS	1.30 - 1.60
Crossbred Roosters		Rabbits	
4-6 LBS	.50 - .60	6-9 LBS	1.10 - 1.30
Crossbred Roosters		Bunnies	1.50 - 5.00
7-11 LBS	.50 - .55	Guinea Fowl	2.00 - 5.00ea.
Guinea Fowl	1.15 - 1.60	Doves	3.00ea.
Banty Roosters	3.00 - 4.50ea.		
Banty Hens	2.50 - 3.50ea.	Total Coops Sold	308

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 23-FEB-2003

DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	137-140	144-146
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	124-128	125-130
MOSTLY		

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	74.00-79.50	76.00-77.50
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	65.00-85.50	67.00-75.50

SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-71.28
14 OZ.	66.96-77.92
16 OZ.	73.44-86.67

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT, WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment steady. Demand was moderate to at times good. Schedules full-time. Weights were in the desirable range. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$4.25-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.45, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.30-0.50, livers at \$0.75-1.70, and feet at \$0.80-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 23-FEB-2003

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	107-124	125
MOSTLY		

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO**ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.**

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
JANUARY 17	159.4	156.3	102%	5.20
24	149.3	157.4	95%	5.24
31	152.7	158.4	96%	5.26
FEBRUARY 7	155.7	159.1	98%	5.22
14	154.4	158.5	97%	5.16
21	154.1	157.7	98%	5.05
YEAR TO DATE	1086.4	1098.5	99%	
FEBRUARY 28		156.8		
MARCH 6		156.2		

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER**Under Federal Inspection**

	-----THOUSANDS-----				
W/E	02/21/04	02/14/04	% CHG	02/22/03	% CHG
Broilers	149,141	152,287	-02*	148,405*	0*
Cattle	585	598	-02	633*	-08
Hogs	1,960	1,896	+03	1,925*	+02
*ACTUAL					

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Majority prices were unchanged on both heavy and light cannery when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate. Trading was light on heavy cannery. Available offerings were clearing satisfactorily. Processing schedules were normal. The undertone was steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS	HEAVY CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	(WITHOUT NECKS)
21-28.5 MAJORITY 24-25	31.5-37.5 MAJORITY 34-35

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS	HEAVY CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)	(WITHOUT NECKS)
24-30 MAJORITY 26.5-27.5	33-39 MAJORITY 36.5-37.5

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Majority values were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate. Offerings of spent fowl were at least adequate to adequate. Processing schedules were mostly normal. Opinions on removal cost were generally steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	0-12	9-11

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Bookings of spent fowl were too few to report. Demand was light for fully adequate supplies. Processing operations were on normal schedules. Finished sales were adequate. Costs of disposal were expected to remain steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Majority prices were unchanged to slightly higher. Demand was moderate to occasionally fairly good with offerings tight to adequate. Opinions of value were generally steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST	4-7	6.25-7

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 01-MAR-04

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was at least moderate for offerings that were generally adequate. Processing schedules for next week were mostly normal. Supplies of finished product were well cleared. The undertone was at least steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

SOUTH CENTRAL LIVE HEAVY-TYPE HENS Trading levels were too few to report. Demand for spent hens was moderate. Offerings were at least adequate. Schedules were normal at processing plants. Finished sales were fair. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

	RANGE	MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT	

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plant schedules light to moderate. Offerings adequate.

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